

## Ranking Category–WILDLIFE HABITAT

### Primary Resource Concern

- Inadequate Habitat for Fish and Wildlife–Habitat Degradation
- Degraded Plant Condition–Inadequate Structure and Composition
- Degraded Plant Condition–Excessive Plant Pest Pressure

### Eligible Land Use

- Range, Crop, Pasture, Associated Agriculture Land, Forest (all land uses with “wildlife” as a modifier)

### Additional Requirements for this Category

- Due to its invasive potential, Eastern Red Cedar is excluded from use in tree planting practices for this ranking category.
- All financially assisted conservation practices will meet additional criteria to improve wildlife habitat and considerations as described in the conservation practice standard and specification.

### State Issues

1. Answer the following question if the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP). The agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering “Yes” to the following question. Answering “Yes” to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the state priority category.  
  
(a) Is the program application to support the development of a CAP? If the answer is “Yes,” do not answer any other state level questions. If the answer is “No,” proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section. (400 points)
2. Answer ONE of the following questions regarding Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, & Tourism (KDWPT) Ecological Focus Areas:  
  
(a) Any part of the application acreage is located within a Terrestrial or Aquatic Ecological Focus Area and the practices implemented will address wildlife habitat concerns on priority terrestrial or aquatic habitats. (400 points)  
  
(b) None of the application acreage is located within a Terrestrial or Aquatic Ecological Focus Area but the practices implemented will address wildlife habitat concerns on state priority terrestrial or aquatic habitats as described KDWPT’s Kansas Wildlife Action Plan. (200 points)  
  
(c) The application addresses a primary resource concern but application acreage is not located in any priority habitat area. (50 points)

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Priority habitats include:

- Grassland Habitats – shortgrass prairie, mixed grass prairie, tall grass prairie, Sandsage shrublands, and sand prairies
- Herbaceous Wetlands – playa lakes, wet prairies, freshwater marshes and cattail marshes, and seeps and springs
- Aquatic (lotic and lentic) Habitats
- Habitats for deciduous/herbaceous floodplains, riparian shrublands, and deciduous forest
- Habitat for at-risk species and native pollinators

More information regarding priority habitats can be found in the Kansas Wildlife Action Plan at the link below:

<http://ksoutdoors.com/content/download/47442/484423/file/Complete%20Plan.pdf>

### Local Issues

1. Answer EACH of the following nine questions related to the application:

- (a) Is the program application to support the development of a CAP? If answer is “Yes,” do not answer any other local level questions. If the answer is “No,” proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section. (250 points)
- (b) Expired Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage is included in the application acreage and will be managed to meet identified wildlife habitat needs. (30 points)
- (c) At least two of the following practices will be implemented to result in ecological improvements on rangeland: 472–Access Control, 338–Prescribed Burning, 529–Prescribed Grazing, and 645–Upland Wildlife Habitat Management. (30 points)
- (d) At least one of the following practices will be implemented to result in the ecological improvement on herbaceous wetlands including playa lakes, wet prairies, freshwater marshes and cattail marshes, or other lotic and lentic aquatic habitats: 657–Wetland Restoration, 659–Wetland Enhancement, 396–Aquatic Organism Passage, 395–Stream Habitat Improvement and Management, and 644–Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management. (75 points)
- (e) At least one of the following practices will be implemented to address the Degraded Plant Condition–Excessive Plant Pest Pressure resource concern: 314–Brush Management, 315–Herbaceous Weed Control, and 338–Prescribed Burning. (30 points)

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- (f) Planned treatments will restore a natural plant community to the reference plant community as detailed by applicable Ecological Site Descriptions (ESD). (25 points)
- (g) At least one percent of the application acreage will be dedicated to provide beneficial habitat for native pollinators. (10 points)
- (h) Planned treatment will provide habitat improvement for species listed as federal/state threatened, endangered, candidate, or proposed. (25 points)
- (i) Participant requested a conservation plan for this application prior to August 31, 2016. (25 points)